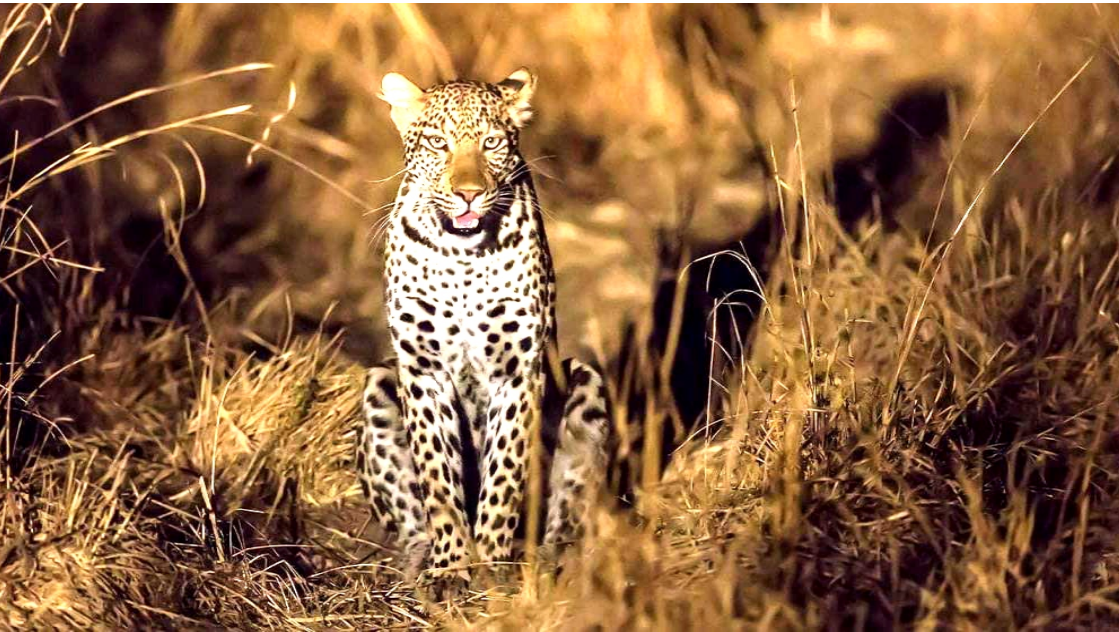


EASTERN REGION COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES BOARD  
ASSOCIATION



**2022-2023 PROGRESS REPORT**

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## ACROYNOMS

CRB	Community Resources Board
AGM	Annual General Meeting
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
ZCRBA	Zambia Community Resources Boards Association
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
BCP	Bio-Carbon Partners
VAG	Village Action Group
GMA	Game Management Area
ER-CRB	Eastern Region Community Resources Board
GMETT	Governance Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
KNRT	Kaindu Natural Resources Trust
KAZA-TFCA	Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area.

CFMG

Community Forestry Management Group

## Profile of the Region

The Eastern Region was formed in 2016 when the CRBs in the region organized themselves to form a regional association which is now an umbrella conservation organization representing grassroots community-based organizations, known as the Community Resources Boards (CRBs), in the eastern ecological region in Zambia. This region is devoted to the conservation of biodiversity and other natural resources in all the GMAs and open areas within its coverage and has the passion to conserve the aesthetic wealth of life on earth, which includes all living organisms, biological communities, and ecosystems. They also aim at improving Game Management Area (GMA) and open area performance for improvement and effective management of Natural Resources and improved sustainable community livelihood.

## Geographical coverage and membership

The eastern region association is in the eastern part of Zambia and comprises of 5 GMAs and 3 National Parks

that contributes effectively to the economic development of both the eastern region and the country through the availability of natural resources and resource wildlife in their landscape. Though, the region is smaller compared to Northern and Western regions. But it's one of the regions rich in natural resources and resources wildlife.

The region has three National parks which are south Luangwa (9,050 square kilometers); Luambe (254 square kilometers) and Lukusuzi (2,720 square kilometers). The south Luangwa national park is the biggest in the region surrounded by 5 GMAs in the region. The National Parks is wild and remote with abundance of wildlife that is rarely seen in other National Parks. It has been described as one of the finest wildlife sanctuaries in the world.

However, Luambe National Park in the region is not only the smallest but one of the smallest National parks in Zambia. Therefore, Luambe National Park is situated on the eastern bank of the Luangwa River, and it lies in the east of the Luangwa Valley between Lukusuzi, north and



south Luangwa National Parks. Further, the third National Park is the Lukusuzi National Park. This is located on the Eastern Escarpment of the Luangwa Valley, that is North and South Luangwa National Parks. Nevertheless, the park is underdeveloped and poorly managed. This has led to a high level of encroachment by the communities around the park.

The 5 GMAs in the region are Upper and Lower Lupande (4,840 square kilometers); Lumimba (4500 square kilometers); west petauke (4140 square kilometers); Sandwe (1,530 square kilometers). There are 17 CRBs of which 14 CRBs are active. The region has one game reserve known as the Nyakolwe Game Reserve. The region has two new CRBs that have been included to the eastern part from the northern end; Tembwe and Lundu CRB.

### The Uniqueness' of the Region

The uniqueness of the region is seen in its density of Game areas and parks that have the advantage of showing local and international visitors such as view of

variety of wildlife and isolated wilderness. The picture below shows the great South Luangwa National Park.



*Figure 1 shows the great south Luangwa National Park*

This Park has been said to be one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Around the Luangwa River and its lagoons, the park harbours one of the greatest concentration of animals in Africa.

Therefore, the South Luangwa National Park in the region, hosts a variety of birds, wildlife and vegetation, it's not surprising that the walking safari originated from this place. The concentration of birds is quite immense, with 400 of Zambia's 732 species of birds as well as 39

birds of prey and 47 migrant species. The Buffalos, Hippos, Zebras, Antelopes, Lions and Kudus are among the abundant wild animals that any visitor will see in the South Luangwa National Park.

### Conservation and community livelihoods: the link between!

The eastern region is known and dedicated to conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. From the region it is also noted that through the employed community scouts and community forestry management officers of the CRBs and CFMGs biodiversity and natural resources are protected in their landscape, respectively. However, the inclusion of Forestry and fisheries groups in the region has also enhances the management of community based natural resources management in the region.

The essential part of the region is seen through its primary livelihoods and activities which includes farming, fishing, livestock rearing and both small and medium enterprises. In this regard, most communities are

dependent on fishing along the great Luangwa River. Mostly the fish business is done at Luangwa bridge be at a good road network area for business and traveling.

The CRBs continued to receiving revenues from trophy hunting and concessions fees. With those funds., they able to engage in livelihood activities such as livestock rearing of which most people keep goats, pigs, and chickens.

### Community development projects in the region

Through the richness of the regional GMAs in the eastern part of Zambia, the communities can generate profitable revenue from hunting. In this regard, the community based natural resources management helps the local community representatives to facilitate community development projects in the area. The projects cater to health, education, social and environment needs of the community. Below is the list of projects done in the region:

## **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

Luembe (CFMG)

- Construction of Maternity Annex in Luangazi VAG is at ring beam level.
- Chinambi Community Market is at window level.
- One (01) Staff House in Ng'ambwa VAG is at slab level.
- Construction of storage shed in Simalama VAG is also at ring beam level.
- Community market in chalubilo VAG is at foundation level.
- Construction of Staff House in Mbilisao VAG at wall plate level.
- Construction of a staff house in Chikwasha VAG at the Health Post is at slab level.
- 1x2 Classroom Block in Malopa VAG at window level
- Two (02) VIP Toilets in Chisanga VAG at Mshalira Primary School completed and in use.
- Construction of 1x3 Classroom Block in Chalubilo VAG at Mulamba Primary School completed and in use.
- Installation of water supply system at the CFMG Office is currently going on.

## Chikomeni

- 8 Challets has been built that's 1 by 2



- 2 offices for the chairperson and the manager have been built
- The restaurant has been built
- The kitchen has been built
- Dinning room has been built, guest's rooms, bathrooms and toilets



- The jimmy has been built

## **Mwanya CRB**

- A health post has been built for the community



*Figure 2 Health Post in Mwanya Chiefdom*

- The CRB has sponsored 16 students for their tertiary education



*Figure 3 Students sponsored by Mwanya CRB*

- The CRB has been paying salaries for 12 community teachers in 3 schools
- The CRB has bought materials to be used in the renovation of a police post which was blown off by heavy wind





*Figure 4 Renovation of a police post*

- The CRB has bought pigs and goats for 16 clubs in all five VAGs



*Figure 5 | 6clubs pigs and goats for relaying*

Modern water reticulation system was drilled in Nyalugwe VAG which has highly reduced Crocodile attacks. The people in Nyalugwe village are having piped water now.



*Figure 6* Modern water system drilled at Nyalungwe There are 03 VAGs namely Mkoma, Tanja and Kasansamula who had the Hummer Mill project.



*Figure 7* Hammer mill project at 3 VAGs

### **3 PROJECTS IN CRBS**

#### **Income generating Initiatives**

There is Eco-tourism which helping the local communities to generate income as well as in farming, livestock rearing, poultry, beekeeping, gardening, carpentry, conservation farming and small enterprises. The revenues generated from these initiatives are not just used for consumption but even for other developmental activities which help in the management of their CRBs such building and renovation of school blocks, guest houses and health posts.

## **CFMG/VAG CAPACITY BUILDING**

Luembe CFMG has trained 10 Lead Farmers in Smart Agriculture. There was a fire marshals training which was done by the ecologist from the forestry department and the conservation officer from BCP. These fire marshals were chosen from three VAGs namely Mkoma, Kasansamula and Nyalungwe of which 35 of them were deployed and have been guided by the community scouts.

Further, Chikomeni CRB members and other community members lead farmers was trained in Smart agriculture.



*Figure 8 Lead Farmers*

## Threats to GMAs Performance

### 1. Humana wildlife conflict

Human wildlife conflict still stands a major threat in the management of natural resources in the region's communities residing adjacent to GMAs. However, mitigation measures are being taken by the able wildlife police officers of DNPW and alongside the Community scouts of the CRBs. However, the region continued to apply HWC mitigation measures such as chili fencing, and animal scaring using fire works with the help from partners.

## HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

The Luembe CFMG in this period under review recorded the following Human Wildlife Conflicts cases;

i Elephants, Hippos and bush pigs damaging maize fields in Ng'ambwa, Chalubilo, Simalama, Chisanga, Mbilisao, Chikwasha, Malopa and Manthungulu VAGs.

The elephants are reported every day and are in large numbers.

ii Lions and Hyenas catching domestics animals in the community.

iii Hippos chasing banana boats at Luangwa Ferry point when people are crossing.

iv An elephant destroyed a house in Mkasanga VAG in Mwanza chiefdom



*Figure 9 Human wildlife conflict incident*

- A grain store has been destroyed by elephant in Lukusuzi VAG in Mwanya chiefdom



*Figure 10 Another HWC incident*

During the year under review, the following incidences happened.

- 03 Heads of cattle were eaten by the cackle of hyenas in Mchimazi VAG particularly in Nyanthapo village in Kasilaunga area.
- 01 Goat was also eaten half way by hyena in Baloni Village



- 01 girl was caught by a crocodile but was rescued by a friend in Kasansamula VAG in Kasansamula Village.

## 2. Encroachment

Zambia has a regionally significant role in large carnivore conservation, given that it borders eight countries, includes three trans frontier conservation areas (TFCAs), and manages nearly 40 % of its land for wildlife. Deforestation in general and encroachment in particular are recognized problems in Zambian natural resource management. However, specific impacts on Protected Areas Networks are poorly understood owing to a lack of adequate mapping of encroachment, deriving from widespread difficulty in mapping cultivation and clearing in fire-prone savannas, and severe inaccuracy in several previous land cover data sets. Using simple manual interpretation of diverse and carefully chosen remote sensing imagery, we evaluated land use change from 1965 to 2011 in Zambia, primarily in the Luangwa Valley.

Furthermore, in the region widespread encroachment is extending toward national parks from major roads as fast as 2 km/year and averaging 18 hectares per hour of daylight throughout a 159,805 km<sup>2</sup> study area, eliminating designated buffer zones in some areas, decreasing connectivity, and potentially eliminating viable Trans-frontier conservation areas. ENCROACHMENT: This is still an issue in our area especially in park boundaries both Kasungu and Lukusuzi N. Parks, beacons have been put in place but people still need s on going sensitizations. This is really an issue because even the corridors for animals passing fro Kasungu to Lukusuzi and vice versa have been encroached.

### 3. Poaching

Poaching is still a big threat to the conservation effort in the region. The CRBs are not getting sufficient resource to deal with the poaching problems in the vast areas. Though poaching activities has reduced in Lukusuzi national park due to the illegal activity taking place in the park of gold mining. People have concentrated a lot on gold mining than poaching, may be the justification can be

the trading prices which are so high than selling illegal wild meat. Poaching is quite high in Kasungu national Park but mostly it is controlled by the support from the project (Ifaw) International fund for Animal Welfare which is doing a great job around this Land scape this Kasungu, Lukusuzi and Luambe national parks. The poaching has at least gone down around Kasungu. The other reason why poaching has reduced is the support from COMACO rendered to the community, people have been trained in a lot of livelihoods activities highlighted earlier on, COMACO has also transformed poachers and trained them in different skills, they come up with an association and handed over their guns. (Transformed Hunters Association). This association has been given them Hatchery machinery for chicks, which they are doing as an income generating activity. Some have become lead farmers.

## Challenge and Limitations

### Challenges

- Monitoring of community projects by BOs is a big challenge as it is not done in accordance hence this result into late completion of projects.
- Poor road network and long distances

### CHALLENGES UNDER HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

- Areas affected by Human Wildlife Conflicts are so vast compared to the number of Local Based Hunters and scouts conducting blasting.
- Inadequate materials and rations for blasting

### Recommendations

- A humble appeal to DNPW that when reports of Human Wildlife Conflicts are submitted to their office there should be quicker intervention in order to avoid loss of lives in the communities. - In view of the recent increase in Human Wildlife

Conflict we suggest that more Local Based Hunters are recruited in order to address the challenges of manpower as far as mitigation of (HWC) is concerned.



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